



**Office of the United States Attorney
District of Arizona**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**SAN CARLOS MOTHER SENTENCED IN MURDER OF
HER THREE-YEAR-OLD DAUGHTER**

PHOENIX – Sharon Jane Dosela, 39, of San Carlos, Ariz., was sentenced here today by Judge Neil V. Wake after Dosela was found guilty in September by a federal jury of First Degree Felony Murder, Second Degree Murder, Aggravated Sexual Abuse with a Minor, Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon for the death of her three-year-old daughter in November 2003 on the San Carlos Apache Reservation. Judge Wake imposed a sentence of life in prison for each of the murder charges and the Aggravated Sexual Abuse charge and ten years each for Assault Resulting in Serious Bodily Injury and Assault with a Dangerous Weapon. Dosela will serve the five terms concurrently.

U.S. Attorney Paul K. Charlton stated that “Every child’s death is a tragedy but that this child died at the hands of her own mother, it is inescapably tragic.”

Dosela, along with her boyfriend Larry Kent Walker, Sr., had beaten her three-year-old daughter numerous times with a wooden paddle during the week before her death in early November 2003. Many of the blows were to the victim’s head and back and she suffered two seizures in the days before being reported dead. The girl had also been sexually abused with a hair brush. Medical testimony indicated that the girl most likely lingered for up to two days without medical care after having suffered brain injuries. She had likely been dead for several hours before her death was reported to police or medical personnel. The girl had been returned to the custody of her mother from foster care by order of the tribal court approximately six weeks before her death. In finding felony murder, the jury made specific findings that the murder resulted from child abuse and a pattern or practice of assault and torture against a child.

Walker was living with Dosela at the time. Walker was sentenced in September 2005 to two life sentences and two sentences of 10 years in prison for murder and assault charges to all be served concurrently. Dosela’s and Walker’s case were the first trial convictions and sentences in the nation under the amended felony murder statute (the PROTECT Act amended in 2003) that added child abuse and pattern of assault or torture against a child as predicate felonies.

The investigation leading to the guilty verdict was conducted by the Bureau of Indian Affairs with assistance from the FBI. The prosecution was handled by Ann Scheel and Michael Morrissey, Assistant U.S. Attorneys, District of Arizona, Phoenix.

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